

# Institute for Research on Social Reproduction and Integration

## Description of the Research Aim

**Institute for Research on Social Reproduction and Integration (IVRIS)** was established in 2005 by the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. Basic topics of the research aim “Reproduction and integration of society” are connected with the most important social processes, which the society in the Czech Republic will have to deal with in the nearest future and which will also mean the biggest risk for its biological and social survival. At the same time, these are topics which are in the context of European sociology and other social sciences including applied disciplines (public and social policy, social work) subjects of dynamic elaboration, as we speak about problems that are current not only for the Czech Republic but also for the whole of Europe. Especially the question of *social exclusion and inclusion*, as well as *social cohesion* have become a part of the agenda of the European Union and even the current range of the researches on this topic and the number of research institutions which deal with these researches in the European countries correspond to it.

Processes of society reproduction and processes of social exclusion or social inclusion in all of their dimensions are in their final form transferred into families and include relations of gender and generations. They disintegrate family and society as a whole. On the other side, inadequate social reproduction can encourage social exclusion of certain families. The decrease of the birth rate together with the weakening of the internal family solidarity means another growth of pressure of social state.

### Cognitive and practical meaning of the research aim

The purpose of the research aim is to better understand processes which influence demographic behaviour of the population, and reproductive strategies that influence not only numerosness and structure of the population, but also keep, extend or weaken inappropriate disparities. It will be about recognition and understanding of factors that help social cohesion (processes, mechanisms and strategies of social inclusion), or jeopardize it (processes and mechanisms of social exclusion), be it on the level of EU, national state, specific localities and communities, households or individuals. The aim is also to understand how exclusive and inclusive processes are connected to biological and social reproductive strategies of families, to functioning of families, to human and social capital, descent, age, ethnical appurtenance, class origin, especially in the labour market and in the relation to precautions and strategies of social state.

### Expected results of the research aim

With respect to growing social significance of the set subject matter, however, we can suppose the **use of the findings** for conceptual approaches in more areas of public policy. First of all, it is about an immediate and strong connection to so-called Lisbon process of EU that penetrates into all areas of public policy. Especially after the Brussels summit in June 2003 in the terms of Open method of coordination, three overlapping aims are specified: employment, quality of work and social inclusion (integration). EU countries are, according to united directives, creating National Plans for Employment and National Plans for Social Inclusion, that include a number of areas of public and social policy. Social indicators for observation of fulfilment of these directives are already developed. Conceptuality of the approaches towards the strategy of employment and social integration is markedly growing as well as the need for analytical base, including outcomes of the basic research. Specific inputs can be expected from this research aim in such areas as conception of policy in the labour market, conception of policy in the area of social help and insufficient incomes (solving of poverty), conception of integration of the Romany community, conception of family policy, conception of migration policy, etc. Very good preconditions are set for this by a close cooperation of the Faculty of Social Studies with the Research

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Institute for Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, as well as its cooperation with national and international institutions (International Labour Office, European Commission).